

IN THE CLAIMS

Page 26, line 1, change "CLAIMS" to --What is claimed is:--.

Claims 1-37 (cancelled).

38. (New) A snap fastening for fixing a thin wall, such as a housing wall, door leaf, shutter, or the like, which is provided with an opening, to a wall support such as a housing frame, door frame, wall opening edge, or the like, which is likewise provided with an opening, comprising:

a base part that can be arranged at the wall support in its opening;

a head part which extends away from this base part and which has a diameter that initially increases and then decreases again in its longitudinal section from an end of the head part in direction of the base part;

said head part being a male plug-in part which, by overcoming a spring force acting radially outward in direction of the diameter, can be received by an undercut female plug-in part that is formed or carried by the opening of the thin wall;

said head part being a guide or channel for one or two or more push elements or holding elements which are pushed by at least one spring into a position in which they project out over the end of the guide or channel; and

ends of said push elements or holding elements projecting from the guide or channel are triangular or ball-shaped in a projection plane extending perpendicular to the thin wall.

39. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the female plug-in part is formed by a substantially rectangular opening in the thin wall, in a bevel area at the edge of the thin wall.

40. (New). The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the push elements comprise two plates which lie next to one another or one behind the other so as to be displaceable, each of the two plates having an opening which is elongated in the movement direction and which forms, individually or jointly, a receiving space for a spiral pressure spring.

41. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 40, wherein, for the common receiving space for the spring, the openings are arranged so as to be moved away from the ball-shaped or triangular free ends in such a way that the shared spring forces the two plates apart in their movement direction.

42. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 40, wherein the edges of the openings have projections or recesses for fixing the spring and the plates.

43. (New). The snap fastening according to claim 41, wherein the two plates have a notch at their outer longitudinal edge for limiting their longitudinal movement by a shoulder, projection, plug, or pin which projects into the notch.

44. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 41, wherein the two plates are guided so as to be displaceable longitudinally in a U-shaped housing whose leg ends are fastened to a base plate formed by the base part or are formed integral with the base plate.

45. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 44, wherein the U-shaped housing has an opening in the web area for receiving a pin or plug.

46. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the base part comprises a screw bolt.

47. (New). The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the base part is formed by a fastening plate provided with fastening holes.

48. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the base part is

formed by a plate which overlaps the longitudinal edges of the opening in the thin wall.

49. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 48, wherein the base part is a side of a pressed metal profile such as an aluminum profile.

50. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 48, wherein the base part is a side of a rolled sheet-metal profile such as a sheet-steel profile.

51. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 48, wherein the base part is a side of an injection-molded plastic profile.

52. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 48, wherein the base part has substantially the same construction, in particular a mirror-inverted construction of the head part.

53. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 52, wherein the two parts have a common base plate lying between them.

54. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 53, wherein the base plate of the head part is formed or carried by the web of the base part.

55. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 53, wherein the base part has a greater longitudinal extension than the head part and, with its web, forms support shoulders for the thin wall.

56. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 53, wherein the free ends of the plates of the base part have an asymmetric roof shape such that the base part can be inserted into a suitable opening in a thin wall or wall support by inserting the longitudinally displaceable plates while guiding the part of the roof shape with the flatter inclination, but a backward movement while guiding the steeper part of the roof is impossible because the plates are self-locking in their guide.

57. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein a tool such as a key which is capable of pulling back the push elements against the spring force by turning it can be inserted from the front and/or back into the housing comprising the self-locking snap fastening.

58. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the housing is provided with fastening cams which can be clipped into a through-opening in the thin wall, and wherein an actuating wheel or rotary knob or key by which the push elements can be pulled back in the housing project from the housing.

59. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 58, wherein the actuating wheel locks in the open position.

60. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein a grip device projects from the housing.

61. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the housing comprises a snap fastening which is not self-locking as well as a snap fastening which is self-locking.

62. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 61, wherein the two types of snap fastening are arranged in the housing so as to be offset relative to one another with respect to the distance from the plane of the thin wall.

63. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 47, wherein the base part has elongated holes as fastening holes.

64. (New) A drawer or rack with a thin-walled front plate, wherein the front plate is the thin wall and the drawer receptacle is the wall support according to claim 38.

65. (New) The cabinet with a thin wall or door leaf, comprising a snap fastening or a plurality of snap fastenings according to claim 38.

66. (New) The cabinet according to claim 65, wherein one or more handles or recessed grips are arranged in openings in the thin wall in which a snap fastening similar to that of the base part according to claim 38 engages.

67. (New) The cabinet according to claim 66, wherein the thin wall has webs with openings for receiving the symmetrically roof-shaped ends of the snap fastening and is not self-locking, according to claim 38.

68. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38 as connector for two thin walls, such as sheet metal, which are provided at the connection location with openings, wherein the base part and head part have a shared housing with holding elements which are arranged in both parts in an approximately mirror-inverted manner with respect to the center line of the housing and which are shaped in such a way that they are self-locking in the insertion direction against spring force and engage the edges of the opening by an inclined surface, wherein a support edge which covers the contacting edges of the opening in one wall and which can be received by the opening in the second wall extends along the outer wall of the housing at the height of the inclined surface of the holding elements of the head part substantially parallel to the insertion direction.

69. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the holding elements are levers arranged at a distance from the thin wall so as to be rotatable around an axis parallel to the plane of the thin wall.

70. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 38, wherein the holding elements are levers arranged at a distance from the thin wall so as to be rotatable around an axis perpendicular to the plane of the thin wall.

71. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 58, wherein the fastening cams are replaced by spring parts which can be inserted into the housing.

72. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 58 wherein the rotary knob and/or the housing have/has markings that indicate the operating position of the push elements as being open or closed.

73. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 72, wherein the marking on the housing or on the rotary knob is a colored dot or surface region, and the marking at the rotary knob or at the housing is at least a notch or an opening which is arranged in such a way that it allows the colored dot or surface region to be seen in a certain position of the rotary knob relative to the housing, for example, in two end positions.

74. (New) The snap fastening according to claim 73, wherein the rotary knob forms a flange which has the color markings, and wherein the flange or base part of the housing forms the notches or openings.